Thematic Summary of Student Reviewer Reflections
2022-2023

How would you describe your recent experience as a student reviewer? What role did you play? What questions did you ask?

Internal and external reviewers actively engaged student reviewers, in a collegial way, to elicit the student perspective on the effectiveness of program design, management; and feedback opportunities available to students.

Questions asked by student reviewers were largely regarding 1) financial and mental health resources available to students; 2) effective communication of program goals to enable students to see applicability of skills and knowledge; 3) incorporating EDID into program; 4) the level and type of student engagement.

Drawing from your student experience at Western, as well as this recent experience as a student reviewer, what program features and/or factors are most impactful on student learning?

- Clear communication of program objectives to enable students to connect the applicability of skills/knowledge gained from the program to career opportunities/ pathways.
- Building and maintaining a sense of community among students contributes to their overall well-being as this promotes a positive and healthy learning environment.
- Multi-modal approaches to learning which can improve student engagement and learning.
- Adequate allocation of financial and mental health resources.
- Flexibility should be built into programs to allow students more control over their progression.

What do you feel are the best ways to engage students in continuous program enhancement?

- Student (including alumni) feedback on program delivery and management was one of the top suggestions for engaging students in continuous program improvement.
    - Utilize this initiative to involve students in program-level decision making where possible.
- Establish advisory boards comprising of students, faculty members, and industry professionals to provide insights and recommendations for program improvement.
    - This could provide professional development and networking opportunities for students.
- Incorporate EDID themes in programs.

Other Comments:

- Ensure inclusion of alumni in the review process, this could be crucial in gauging effectiveness of a program.
- The Student Reviewer helped provide a safe space for students to share candid feedback.

A Few Excerpts:

- *I think this was an excellent experience as a student reviewer. I got to see how the program review works, gained understanding of program design, implementation, and management of the academic world.*
- *I am very pleased that I volunteered to be a student reviewer. I felt I was an important part of this process and was able to ask relevant questions during our meetings. Furthermore, I felt my role to elicit student perspective was effective.*
- *Overall, it was a wonderful experience. The team of reviewers welcomed my perspective and insights, and I was able to ensure that the student voice was not lost within the review process.*
- *This was my second time working as a student reviewer, and I greatly loved it. It's always interesting to learn about the many programmes available at Western, especially the student experiences within these programmes. As a student reviewer, I was able to discuss student interests both within and outside of the classroom.*

All students who acted as student reviewers this year indicated that they would be interested in participating in future program review assignments.